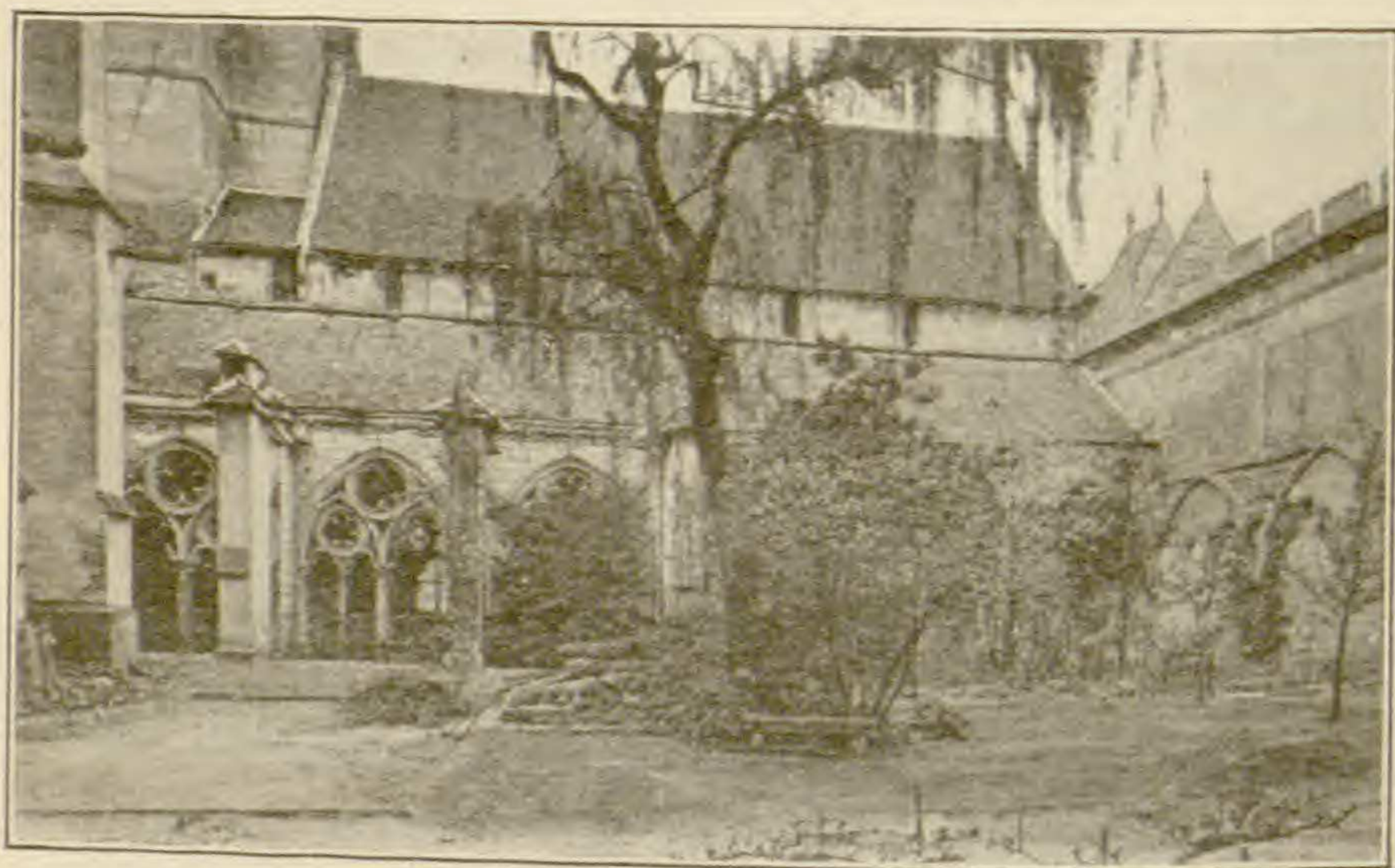


I have studied these ferns for about two years and this is the data that I have made from my study.

I have a few specimens and I am willing to divide with members of the society if stamps are sent to cover postage.

SPRING HILL, ALA.



MONASTERY GARDEN, NOYON (before the war)

A FERN FROM THE BATTLE-GROUND.—I have in my herbarium a fine specimen of *Dryopteris filix mas* Schott. The frond was taken from a plant in the fern garden of Mrs. Wm. F. Brooks, New Britain, Conn. The plant was taken from the Monastery garden of Noyon Cathedral, Noyon, France, by Mrs. Brooks in July, 1913. It seems to me that battle-scarred country would be poor collecting ground for the fern collector to-day.—H. C. BIGELOW, New Britain, Conn.

Recent Fern Literature

Elizabeth Dorothy Wuist Brown has described a case of presumably induced apogamy among prothallia of

the walking fern grown on a nutrient solution which was purposely not renewed for long periods, so that the prothallia were partially starved. Other investigators have concluded that, in cases observed by them, apogamy was induced by too much light and too little moisture for fertilization. Mrs. Brown, however, considers that in this instance it was due rather to insufficient nourishment. From the fact that only one case of apogamy could be obtained among many prothallia, she argues that under natural conditions this phenomenon is rare in the walking fern and not easily brought about.¹

Vaughan McCaughey has contributed to *Torreyia* an account of the "pala" or mule's-foot fern (*Marattia Douglasii*), now the only representative of its family in Hawaii, but perhaps the remnant of a once much more numerous marattiaceous flora. The species in question, abundant in the mountains, is a small tree-fern with a short trunk 1-2 ft. high and very large wide-spreading fronds. It is remarkable for the fleshy stipules at the base of the leaves, which remain adherent to the trunk and living even after the leaf has fallen. They are starchy and mucilaginous, were used as an article of food by the primitive Hawaiians and are said to be highly palatable when baked. "Mule's-foot fern" is Mr. McCaughey's own suggestion for an English name for this fern. Its appropriateness lies in the fact that the "enlarged leaf-base with the two thick, fleshy stipules curiously resembles in shape and size" the hoof of a mule.²

¹ Brown, Elizabeth Dorothy Wuist, Apogamy in *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 46: 27-30, pl. 2. Jan., 1919.

² MacCaughey, Vaughan. The pala or mule's-foot fern (*Marattia Douglasii* (Presl) Baker) in the Hawaiian Archipelago. *Torreyia* 19: 1-8. Jan., 1919.